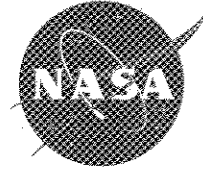


National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Langley Research Center
100 NASA Road
Hampton, VA 23681-2199



January 26, 2009

Reply to Attn of:

106

TO: Distribution

FROM: Chief Counsel

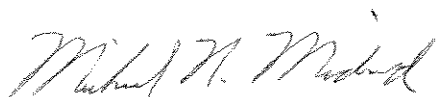
SUBJECT: Blanket Determination Regarding Attendance at the Virginia Technology Alliance Reception on February 3, 2009, at the Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia

The Virginia Technology Alliance is hosting a reception on February 3, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. at the Library of Virginia in Richmond, Virginia. The purpose of the event is to allow leaders in Virginia's aerospace and technology community to interact, discuss aerospace and technology interests, and economic and technology advancement in Virginia and the Hampton Roads region, including NASA Langley Research Center's significant role in research, development, and space exploration. I have determined it to be in the best interest of the government for those invited NASA employees to attend this event in their official capacities and as representatives of NASA.

The reception will be a gathering of approximately 500 people including numerous federal, Commonwealth, and local government representatives, representatives of academia, and the aerospace industry with a diversity of interests in aerospace and technology. In accordance with 5 C.F.R. §2635.204(g), and 14 C.F.R. §1207.103, I find that the event meets the definition of a "widely attended gathering." I further find that there is an Agency interest in having NASA employees attend the event because they will have the opportunity to further Agency programs and operations through the exchange of views and information between local and State public officials, aerospace and technology business leaders, Virginia congressmen and women, federal leaders, and members of academia who have an interest in NASA's space and aeronautics mission in Virginia and the Hampton Roads region. The estimated value of an invitation to the reception, which includes food and beverages, is \$70.00 per person.

Accordingly, NASA employees whose duties do not substantially affect the Virginia Technology Alliance, or a majority or all of its members, may accept an invitation for free attendance at the reception.

NASA employees whose duties may substantially affect the Virginia Technology Alliance or its members, for instance by way of procurement duties, should seek an individual determination pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.205(g)(3)(i) regarding participation in this event from their local ethics counselor.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Michael N. Madrid".

Michael N. Madrid
4-3221